

## CLAIMS:

1. An optical disc (1) for storing digital data, comprising a first storage area (10) for storing a first type of digital data and a second storage area (20) for storing a second type of digital data, each of the first and second areas comprising a user-data area (11, 21), wherein the first and the second storage area (10, 20) are logically independent, and wherein said first storage area has reading/writing capabilities for high-speed data without defect management, and said second storage area (20) has reading/writing capabilities for data requiring defect management support and comprises at least one defect management area (22a, 22b) associated with said user data area (21) of the second storage area (20) for storing defect management data.  
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2. The optical disc according to claim 1, wherein the first type of data is real-time audio/video data incompatible with defect management, and the second type of data is digital data requiring defect management support.
- 15 3. The optical disc according to claim 1, wherein each of the first and second areas has a logical zero, or its own address space.
4. The optical disc according to claim 1, wherein the first and second areas of the disc are independently accessible.  
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5. The optical disc according to claim 1, wherein the first and second storage areas are fixedly defined.
- 25 6. The optical disc according to claim 5, wherein the first and second storage areas can be altered during use.
7. The optical disc according to claim 1, wherein the disc has a nominal data transfer rate of 36 Mbs.

8. A method of reading digital data from or writing digital data to an optical disc comprising a first storage area (10) for storing a first type of digital data and a second storage area (20), which is logically independent of the first storage area (10), for storing a second type of digital data requiring support for defect management, each of the first and second areas comprising a user-data area, comprising the steps of:

- accessing the first storage area (19) when digital data of the first type are to be read from or written to the first storage area,
- accessing the second storage area (20) when digital data of the second type are to be read from or written to the second storage area.

9. An optical disc drive (30) comprising an optical reader/writer (31), a drive controller (33), means for receiving digital data (34, 35), and means for receiving (36) an optical disc, wherein the drive controller comprises:

- first access means for accessing a first storage area (10) of an optical disc (1) received in the means for receiving the optical disc in response to receiving instructions to read a first type of data from or write data of the first type to the first storage area (10); and
- second access means for accessing a second storage area (20) of the optical disc (1) in response to receiving instructions to read a second type of data from or write data of the second type to the second storage area (20), the second type of data requiring support for defect management.

10. A computer system comprising a disc drive according to claim 9.

11. A computer program product embodied on a computer-readable medium comprising computer-readable instructions to carry out the method according to claim 7 when executed by said computer.